

ential wall 16 partially define the container 17. However, it will be appreciated that portions of the circumferential wall 16 that define the container 17 can have uniform thicknesses. The container 17 houses (or contains) the label 13 within a space of the container 17. In the illustrated embodiment, the label 13 includes textual information. However, it will be appreciated that the label 13 may include graphical information in addition to (or in place of) textual information.

[0042] With continued reference to FIG. 2C, the circumferential wall 16 encloses a space 19, and the label 13 is not permitted to come in contact with the space 19. In other embodiments (not shown), the space 19 and container 17 are in fluid communication through a hole formed in a portion of the wall 16 disposed between the space 19 and the container 17. In such a case, the label 13 may enter the space 19 through the hole.

[0043] With reference to FIGS. 2B and 2C, the container 17 is cylindrical in shape and oriented vertically (i.e., along an axis that is perpendicular to a top surface of the cap 12) with respect to the cap 12. The container 17 comprising the label 13 is preferably laterally disposed in relation to the space 19 of the cap 12.

[0044] In some embodiments (not shown), the container 17 may be defined by a wall that is separate from the wall 16 enclosing the space 19, and the container 17 may be attached to the wall 16 using, e.g., a glue, such as an epoxy resin.

[0045] While the space within the container 17, as illustrated, is smaller than the space 19, it will be appreciated that the space within the container 17 may be of the same size or larger than the space 19.

[0046] With reference to FIG. 2C, the label 13 extends out of the container 17 (i.e., away from the cap 12) and retracts back to the container 17 (i.e., toward the cap 12) through an opening 20 within a portion of the circumferential wall 16 that defines the container 17. In the illustrated embodiment, the opening 20 is at least partially defined by the thicker portions 18 of the circumferential wall 16. In preferred embodiments, the opening 20 is of any shape, size and dimension. In one embodiment, the opening 20 is a slit that runs parallel to the container 17. The opening 20 may be sized so as to permit the label 13 to extend and retract unimpeded. In one embodiment, the opening 20 is a slit having a width that is smaller than a width of the label 13.

[0047] It will be appreciated that the container 17 may be of any shape, size and orientation. As an example, the container 17 may be box-like. As another example, the container 17 may be cylindrical but oriented parallel to the top surface of the cap 12. In such a case, the container 17 may be curved around the circumference of the cap 12.

[0048] In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2C, the label 13 is housed (or contained) within the container 17 by, e.g., winding it around itself. However, it will be appreciated that the label 13 need not be wound around itself in the container 17.

[0049] With reference to FIGS. 2A-2C, in a preferred embodiment, a user can extend the label 13 out of the 17 by pulling on the tab 14. When the user releases the tab 14, the label is retracted back to the container 17. In some embodiments, the label 13 is retracted by, e.g., a spring-loaded mechanism or an elastic member. In other embodiments, the label 13 is extended and retracted by means of a motor (not shown) that can be stored in the container 17 or at a location external to the container 17.

[0050] With reference to FIGS. 3A-3D, in a preferred embodiment, a syringe 30 having a retractable label 31 is shown. The syringe comprises a needle 32 on one end and a plunger 33 on the other. In the illustrated embodiment, the retractable label 31 comprises a tab 34 to enable a user to extend the label and access the information provided thereon. In other embodiments, the label 31 does not include a tab. The syringe 30 can be used for drawing in a quantity of fluid (e.g., blood) or for dispensing fluid (e.g., vaccine). The syringe can have multiples uses, such as, e.g., dispensing epinephrine, in which case the syringe can be an EpiPen.

[0051] With reference to FIG. 3C, in a cross sectional top-down view of the syringe of FIG. 3A, the syringe 30 comprises a first compartment (or container) 35 and a second compartment (or container) 36. The first compartment 35 includes a space 35a that is circumvented by a first wall 37. The second compartment 36 is disposed at the periphery of the first compartment 35. In preferred embodiments, the second compartment 35 is laterally disposed in relation to the first compartment 35. The second compartment 36 includes a space 36a that is circumvented by a second wall 38. In the illustrated embodiment, the first wall 37 is a part of the second wall 38, and the first compartment 35 is in contact with the second compartment 36. In other embodiments, the second wall 38 is not part of the first wall 37. In such a case, the second compartment 36 may be formed separately and attached to the first wall 37 (hence the first compartment 35) using, e.g., a glue, such as an epoxy resin.

[0052] With reference to FIG. 3C, the label 31 is contained in the second compartment 36. The label exits the second compartment 36 through a hole 39 in the second wall 38. In one embodiment, the hole is a slit, such as, e.g., an elongated slit. The label 31 of the illustrated embodiment is housed in the second compartment by wrapping it around itself.

[0053] With reference to FIG. 3D, a spring 40 disposed in the second compartment 36 and in contact with the label 31 is configured to retract the label 31 into the second compartment 36. In another embodiment, the spring 40 is not disposed in the second compartment 36; it is disposed at a location external to the second compartment 36. In yet another embodiment, the spring 40 is at least partially disposed in the second compartment 36. In other embodiments, the label is retracted by an elastic member (e.g., rubber band) or a motor that is at least partially disposed in the second compartment 36 or at a location external to the second compartment 36.

[0054] With continued reference to FIG. 3C, the first wall 37 and second wall 38 may have equal thicknesses or disparate thicknesses. In one embodiment, the thickness of the first wall 37 is greater than that of a typical syringe, making the syringe 30 easier to grip.

[0055] FIGS. 4A-4C show several applications of preferred embodiments. With reference to FIG. 4A, a jar 50 (e.g., spice jar) comprises a cap 51 with a retractable label 52 having a tab 53. The retractable label 52 has textual information provided thereon. Additionally, the jar 50 comprises a conventional stick-on (i.e., non-retractable) label 52a. With reference to FIG. 4B, a product container 54 (e.g., beverage container) includes a cap 55 having a retractable label 56, the retractable label 56 comprising a tab 57. The retractable label 56 may include a coupon. Additionally, the retractable label 56 may be removable from the cap 55. The retractable label 56 has textual information provided thereon. The container 54 further comprises a stick-on label 56a. With reference to FIG. 4C, a product container 58 comprises a cap 59 and a retract-